



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the
United States Attorney
for the
District of Nebraska
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March 9, 2009

United States Attorney Joe Stecher and the Nebraska State Patrol announce the following information for the attention of the media:

Event Triggering this Release:

Joseph Risher, 39, was sentenced for possessing child pornography. The Honorable Laurie Smith Camp sentenced Risher to a ten-year term of imprisonment. After his release from prison, Risher will begin a 20-year term of supervised release. The ten-year sentence is a mandatory minimum sentence. The mandatory minimum is the result of Risher's prior conviction for Attempted Sexual Assault of a Child.

On July 8, 2008, investigators from the Nebraska State Patrol served a search warrant at Risher's apartment in Omaha, Nebraska. Using a peer-to-peer connection, investigators had earlier downloaded two videos of child pornography from Risher's shared file folder. After seizing the computer, investigators found 13 videos of child pornography, including bondage videos involving eight- to ten-year-old children.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafefchildhood.gov.

Name of Defendant: Joseph Risher

AKA:

Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty): Possession of Child Pornography; 10-20 years imprisonment, up to a \$250,000 fine, or both imprisonment and fine,

not less than 5 years of supervised release and a \$100 special assessment.

Specific Location of Alleged Crime: Omaha, Nebraska

Location of Arrest: Omaha, Nebraska

Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug:

Others Charged in Same Scheme:

Relevant Dates:

Date of Alleged Crime: On and before July 18, 2008

Federal Arrest Date: August 28, 2008

Date Complaint Issued:

Indictment Returned Date: August 20, 2008

Initial Appearance Date: August 28, 2008

Plea or Trial and Date(s): Pled on December 18, 2008

Sentencing Date: March 9, 2009

Next Court Hearing Type and Date: N/A

Assigned Magistrate Judge: The Honorable F.A. Gossett, III

Held without Bond, or Released from Custody: Placed on Pretrial Release

In Continuous Custody Since:

Assigned District Court Judge: The Honorable Laurie Smith Camp

Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release: MPN